

Message Text

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65

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SS-07 AID-01 NSC-06 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9264

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MUNICH IMMEDIATE

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OREP

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL TO EASTERN EUROPE

REF: A) STATE 231129, B) STATE 236057 AND PREVIOUS, C) STATE 240372.

D) STATE 240218

1. EMBASSY ANTICIPATES PROBLEM WITH STAFFDEL BEING ADVNACED DEUTSCH MARKS (REF B) OR BRITISH POUNDS (REF C) FOR MOSCOW STAY. MOST SOVIET RESTAURANTS AND STORES ACCEPT ONLY RUBLES; THUS, DELEGATION WILL NEED RUBLES FOR MISCELLANEOUS LOCAL EXPENSES. EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE RUBLES IN EXCHANGE FOR U.S. DOLLARS BUT NOT FOR OTHER FOREIGN CURRENCIES. IF STAFFDEL RECEIVES ITS 19FT510 FUNDS BEFORE ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW AND THEY ARE NOT DOLLARS, STAFFDEL WILL HAVE TO HANDLE EXCHANGING ITS MONEY AT AUTHORIZED SOVIET BANKS, HOTEL OR INTOURIST OFFICE. TO AVOID THESE COMPLICATIONS EMBASSY WULD PREFER TO MAKE ADVANCE TO STAFFDEL HERE IN RUBLES. STAFFDEL COULD THEN PROCURE FROM EMBASSY ANY DOLLARS BEYOND THOSE ALREADY IN ITS POSSESSION THAT IT NEEDED FOR SHOPPING AT THE SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY STORES.

2. RE: PAYMENT OF HOTEL EXPENSES. MOST BETTER CLASS HOTESL IN MOSCOW PREFER TO BE PAID IN HARD CURRENCIES, USUALLY DOLLARS, FOR ALL CHARGES. THUS COSTS OF MEALS AND INCIDENTALS PUT ON HOTEL BILL MAY HAVE TO BE PAID IN DOLLARS--PLUS, OF COURSE, ROOM CHARGES IF THEY ARE NOT PREPAID. IN ANTICIPATION
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OF POSSIBLE PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA, EMBASSY REQUESTS AUTHORITY

TO PAY FOR HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS IN U.S. DOLLARS, IF THAT
BECOMES NECESSARY.

3. PER REF D WE QUERIED INTOURIST THIS MORNING. MR SATAROV
(WHO IS HANDLING THE VISIT) HAS JUST INFORMED US THAT IT SENT
CONFIRMATION TO ATA YESTERDAY FOR FOUR (4) FIRST CLASS TOURS.
NAME OF HOTEL WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL ABOUT ONE DAY BEFORE
ARRIVAL, BUT RROM RATE IS 26 RUBLES PER DAY, I.E. U.S.
\$34.55.

4. ASSUME HOTEL ROOMS WILL STILL BE PREPAID PER EARLIER
ARRANGEMENTS. IF NOT, REQUEST AUTHORITY FOR EMBASSY TO PAY
DOLLARS FOR FULL HOTEL BILL SHOULD THAT BE NECESSARY.
(SEE PARA 2 ABOVE)
MATLOCK

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